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MR. KNUTSEN: My name is Reinard Knutsen. I am a resident of Las Vegas, and I am a volunteer with Shundahai Network, an environmental justice organization begun by Corbin Harney, a Western Shoshone elder.

1 I wish I could say I'm happy to be here, but I can't, because -- I'm happy that San Bernardino is having this extra hearing -- but we need at least one hearing in every single state that's affected by the transportation of this nuclear waste. And until we have those hearings, and until this deadline is extended, I cannot say that I'm happy to be here. And I am ashamed and outraged that I have to come and say the same thing over and over again.

2 The DEIS, I believe, prepared for and submitted by the DOE, is vitally and fundamentally flawed and is not suitable for any intelligent decision to be based on, and I demand that it be sent immediately to the recycling center and that this process begun all over in a more thoughtful and sane manner.

3 And I believe that if this Yucca Mountain -- I believe that the DEIS is full of basically lies backed by bad science, which is criminally misleading, and I think that the people responsible for this, sometime in my lifetime, will be held responsible for crimes against humanity and crimes against nature. And I think this is a very important issue that's not being anywhere addressed in a rational manner.

On Page 4 of the DEIS summary it states that DOE is responsible for implementing a permanent solution for the management of spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste.

4 Well, the Yucca Mountain project is certainly no permanent solution to the nuclear waste problem. Right now, they are looking at -- well, the DOE is waffling on this point. They don't know whether they are going to build it for 77,000 tons of nuclear waste or 120,000 tons of nuclear waste. Even if we go ahead and license it for 77,000 tons of nuclear waste, that doesn't even take care all the nuclear waste that's going to have built up by the end of the 39-year period that it's going to take to fill the first 77,000 tons of nuclear waste, so that's not a permanent solution.

5 The only permanent solution is stopping production of the nuclear waste and putting our resources into alternative renewable energy resources and containing the current nuclear waste on site and above  
6 ground, monitored, in retrievable storage containers that can be easily gotten to and repaired, if there are leaks. And some of these will have to be moved like on the Prairie Island nuclear power plant, which is  
7 built on an island right in the middle of the Mississippi River, which is the most irresponsible place to  
continued  
on page 2 build a power plant. And I can't believe that these scientists, you know, who are responsible for doing  
stupid things like that and testing nuclear weapons and saying that these nuclear weapons are completely  
safe, are the same scientists that are trying to tell us that transporting nuclear waste is safe and that Yucca  
Mountain is safe. These people are lying, and they should be held criminally responsible for these lies.

[APPLAUSE.]

8 MR. KNUTSEN: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to adequately address cumulative  
impacts for the entire nuclear chain for mining, nuclear weapons, and waste production. The DEIS failed  
9 to address the socioeconomic impact to not only Southern Nevada, as the fastest growing region in the  
country, but every region that the nuclear waste will be traveling through.

10 The DEIS fails to adequately address environmental justice issues, and I believe that the Department of  
Energy is complicit in racism and colonialism of the worse sort. And I support the call by Corbin Harney  
11 and other native people to extend the deadline for comment on this Yucca Mountain DEIS for, if not  
everybody, at least for the native people, because they have -- the government, the United States  
government has a responsibility towards the native people to let their voice be heard in this process.

12 I have talked with many Western Shoshone people who have not been involved in the process at all. Like  
Corbin said, there were seven people flown in by the DOE to take part in a review, but those seven people  
certainly do not represent the majority of the people within the Western Shoshone nation. And I was just  
down to Needles, California, two weekends ago where I talked with other representatives of the Mojave  
tribe and other Colorado River tribes who were not consulted in this process either, and they are affected  
by these plans just as other communities are.

13 And I believe that the native people have a wisdom about what happens in this area. They have been here  
longer than anybody else. They know this area. They know the land; they know the water; and they know  
the -- they have a better understanding of what's going to happen over the next 10,000 years than our  
white scientists. And I think we need to listen to the native people in a serious manner. And so I support  
14 the extending of the comment deadline for everybody, but especially for the native people.

FACILITATOR HOLMES: We are at five minutes. If you can summarize?

7 MR. KNUTSEN: All right. Finally, I would just like to say that the people who have lied to us today  
continued about how safe these shipping casks perform -- how safe these casks are that they are going to be shipping  
the nuclear waste in, should be really ashamed of themselves.

The casks that are going to be transporting this nuclear waste haven't even been designed yet. The NRC  
does not require these casks to be tested to destruction point. They have very mediocre test guidelines  
that do not meet real-life situations. And so these people that were -- you know, we are being lied to  
about how safe these casks are.

In closing, I would just like to say that finally, if they do try to open Yucca Mountain, there will be people  
all over the country who will be doing civil disobedience to stop the transportation of nuclear wastes  
through their communities. And that's not an issue that's addressed by this DEIS either.

[APPLAUSE.]

FACILITATOR HOLMES: Thomas Lorenz, followed by Helen Herrera.